

FEB 13 2006

**PATTERSON &  
SHERIDAN, LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

3040 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056-6582  
TEL 713.623.4844  
FAX 713.623.4846**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

**DATE:** February 13, 2006  
**FILE NO.:** ROC920010079US1 (IBMK10079)  
**TO:** MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Examiner Ronald Laneau  
**FAX NO.:** 1-571-273-8300  
**FROM:** Gero G. McClellan/cs  
**PAGE(S) with cover:** 13

**RE:**

**TITLE:** Systems and Methods for Operating Vending Machines  
**U.S. SERIAL NO.:** 09/848,572  
**FILING DATE:** May 3, 2001  
**INVENTOR(S):** Bates et al.  
**EXAMINER:** Ronald Laneau  
**GROUP ART UNIT:** 3627  
**CONFIRMATION NO.:** 6826

Attached are the following document(s) for the above-referenced application:

Response To Office Action Dated November 16, 2005.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE**

The document accompanying this facsimile transmission contains information from the law firm of Patterson & Sheridan, LLP, which is confidential or privileged. The information is intended to be for the use of the individual or entity named on this transmission sheet. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this faxed information is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us by telephone immediately so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the original documents at no cost to you.

437265\_1.DOC

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**FEB 13 2006**

**PATENT**  
App. Ser. No.: 09/848,572  
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010079US1  
PS Ref. No.: IBMK10079

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Bates et al.	§	Confirmation No.: 6826
Serial No.: 09/848,572	§	Group Art Unit: 3627
Filed: May 3, 2001	§	Examiner: Ronald Laneau
For: Systems and Methods for Operating Vending Machines	§	

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 571-273-6390, in the attention of Examiner Ronald Laneau, on the date shown below:

February 13, 2006

Date

Gero G. McClellan

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 16, 2005**

In response to the Office Action dated November 16, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 16, 2006, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. While no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465/ROC920010079US1 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

The Claims are listed beginning on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.